

In re: Kim et al.
Serial No.: 10/730,960
Filed: December 9, 2003
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REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the detailed examination evidenced by the Final Official Action mailed September 10, 2009 ("Final Action"). In response, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1 and 20, as set out above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are patentable for at least the reasons discussed below.

The Section 103 Rejections

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 20, 24, and 27-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,839,774 to Ahn ("Ahn") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,968,141 to Tsai ("Tsai") in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,028,445 to Lawman ("Lawman"). (Final Action, page 5.) Independent Claim 1, as amended, recites, in part (*emphasis added*):

transferring command information only to the programmable memory controller circuit, wherein **the programmable memory controller circuit only receives command information**, wherein command information is used to generate control signals used in conjunction with data information and address information transferred to the buffer circuit, wherein the control signals are only generated by the programmable memory controller circuit;

The Final Action concedes that "Ahn does not teach transferring command information only to the programmable memory controller circuit...." (Final Action, page 6.) In rejecting Claim 1, however, the Final Action contends that Tsai teaches "transferring command information only to the programmable memory controller circuit...." (Final Action, page 7.) But Applicants submit that amended Claim 1 is patentable because the cited references fail to disclose or suggest each recitation of amended Claim 1. For example, Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 as reflected above to further clarify that "the programmable memory controller circuit **only receives command information**," which is not disclosed or suggested, either singularly in combination, by the cited references. (*Emphasis added.*) In contrast to amended Claim 1, Tsai states that "[t]he programming operation is executed by the host computer issuing **instruction and related data** via the bus 10A, and then via bus 3236 under control of the programming controller 32." (Tsai, col. 9, lines 14-16, *emphasis added.*)

Tsai further states (Tsai, col. 7, lines 22-30, *emphasis added*):

When an on-site upgrade operation is requested, the host computer system must issue a series of corresponding **instructions and data** into the IDE bus 10 in order for the programming controller 32 to be operating independently from the bus 10 itself...**these instructions and data are used to initiate the programming controller 32.**

The programming controller 32 of Tsai therefore receives both instructions and data, and Tsai thus does not disclose or suggest that "the programmable memory controller circuit **only receives command information**," as recited in amended Claim 1, but rather teaches away from this recitation of amended Claim 1. (*Emphasis added.*) Accordingly, as Ahn and Lawman also fail to supply this recitation of amended Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is patentable for at least this reason.

Amended independent Claim 20 includes analogous recitations to amended Claim 1 and is also patentable for at least the reasons described herein. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request further examination of the amended claims and the allowance of all claims for at least the reasons described herein.

Claims 3-5, 7, 10, 24-25, and 27 depend from Claim 1, and Claim 28 depends from Claim 20. Applicants traverse the rejection of the dependent claims. However, as each of these claims depends from a base claim that is believed to be in condition for allowance, Applicants do not believe that it is necessary to argue the allowability of each dependent claim individually. Applicants do not necessarily concur with the interpretation of these claims, nor with the bases for rejection set forth in the Office Action. Applicants therefore reserve the right to address the patentability of these claims individually as necessary in the future.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections and objections and the allowance of all claims in due course. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of

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this matter, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone at (919) 854-1400.

Respectfully submitted,

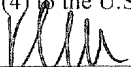


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CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with § 1.6(a)(4) to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on January 7, 2010.



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